

CHAPTER V: INCIDENTS

A. GENERAL.

1. Incidents.

Incidents are defined as events that have the potential to drastically affect the transit of one or more vessels, cause damage to property and the environment, or cause injury or loss of life.

2. Emergencies.

An emergency occurs when there has been actual injury or loss of life, damage to property, and/or damage to the environment. See **CHAPTER VII: EMERGENCIES**.

3. VTS objectives.

VTS operations are intended to prevent incidents by following prescribed traffic management policies and procedures. When incidents do occur, the following policies apply.

B. ACTION IN A SITUATION INVOLVING A "FINITE" SET OF VESSELS.

When VTS personnel determine that a developing traffic encounter is unsafe they shall follow the procedures below.

1. VTS Recommendation.

VTS shall contact the vessels involved and recommend an appropriate course of action. VTS shall determine whether the vessels intend to comply with the recommendation.

2. VTS Direction.

If a vessel declines to take appropriate action the watch supervisor shall use VTS authority and direct the vessel to take action in order to rectify the situation.

C. ACTION IN A SITUATION THAT AFFECTS ANY VESSEL TRANSITING A GEOGRAPHIC AREA.

When VTS determines that transit of a given geographic area is unsafe or is safe only under specific conditions VTS shall issue a VTS Measure prohibiting transit of the geographic area or stating the conditions a vessel must meet to transit the area.

Upon issuing a VTS Measure VTS shall do the following.

1. Broadcast.

VTS shall broadcast the VTS Measure on channels 13, 14, and 16. The broadcast shall include the geographic area, the prohibition to transit or the conditions under which a vessel may transit, and the categories of vessel to which the VTS Measure applies.

2. Direct notification.

(a) Vessels.

VTS shall contact participating vessels and ensure that they are aware of the VTS Measure.

(b) Agencies.

VTS shall contact the Bar Pilots office, the Marine Exchange, and MSO and notify them of the VTS Measure.

D. CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION.

When any incident occurs the supervisor shall contact and brief MSO and CO VTS as soon as possible.

E. DOCUMENTATION.

1. Recording.

The supervisor shall ensure that a video tape of applicable CCTV pictures are made.

2. Incident report.

When an incident occurs the supervisor shall draft an incident report and submit it to OPS within 72 hours.

2. Watch to Watch Notes.

The supervisor shall enter notes about the incident in the Watch To Watch Notes book including the essence of any VTS Directives of Measures issued.